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Man Pleads Not Guilty to Murder of Pen Pal

A man pleaded not guilty today to killing an 82-year-old man earlier this month in Hollywood, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Scott Kratlian (dob 3/30/69), 44, was charged in case BA421694 with one count of murder. The complaint includes an allegation of a prior conviction in 1993 for manslaughter out of New York County.

If convicted, Kratlian faces a maximum sentence of 56 years to life in prison.

Kratlian is accused of killing Harry Major on Feb. 10 in the 1400 block of N. Vista Street. Deputy District Attorney Tony Cho of the Elder Abuse Section said Kratlian and Major became pen pals while the suspect was serving a sentence for manslaughter in a New York prison.

Kratlian was released in late 2013 and at some point came to Los Angeles, the prosecutor said. The Los Angeles County Coroner's Office determined the cause of Major's death was asphyxiation.

Bail was set at \$1.08 million. Kratlian was scheduled to return to court March 17 for a preliminary hearing setting.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles Police Department.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Annually, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](http://da.lacounty.gov) prosecutes more than 60,000 felonies and 140,000 misdemeanor crimes.